

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT:WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT: JAN 6-JAN 13

1. CONSIDERING THE FAST PACE IN WHICH EVENTS OFTEN UNFOLD HERE AND OUR DESIRE TO KEEP THE EMBASSY INFORMED IN AS TIMELY A MANNER AS POSSIBLE, ARA/PAN HAS DECIDED TO REINSTITUTE THE WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT (WAR) AS A MEANS OF GETTING INFORMATION TO THE FIELD IN A MORE SYSTEMATIC FASHION. BELOW IS OUR FIRST INSTALLMENT TOWARDS THE WAR-PART II.

2. OMB MEMORANDUM ON CANAL COMMISSION. THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN PARTICIPATING TOGETHER WITH DOD AND OTHER AGENCIES IN THE PREPARATION OF AN OMB MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT CONCERNING THE ORGANIZATION OF THE PANAMA CANAL COMMISSION. DECISIONS WHICH WILL BE SOUGHT THROUGH THE MEMORANDUM INCLUDE: IDENTIFICATION OF THE AGENCY OR DEPARTMENT WHICH WILL SUPERVISE THE COMMISSION; THE MANNER FOR APPOINTING THE ADMINISTRATOR AND THE U.S. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE COORDINATION OF U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY
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CONCERNING THE CANAL.

3. REPLY TO FAA. THE DEPARTMENT IS PREPARING A REPLY TO A LETTER FROM THE FAA ADMINISTRATOR TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY

TODMAN CONCERNING THE SERVICES WHICH THAT AGENCY WILL CONTINUE TO PERFORM IN PANAMA FOLLOWING THE ENTRANCE INTO

FORCE OF THE TREATIES. FAA HAS PROPOSED THAT PANAMA PAY IN FULL FOR ANY SERVICES PERFORMED BY FAA AND THAT THE FAA GRADUALLY PHASE OUT ITS ACTIVITIES WHILE PREPARING PANAMA TO TAKE OVER ALL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL FUNCTIONS.

4. PUBLIC AFFAIRS ACTIVITIES

(A) Q'S AND A'S. AN UPDATED AND CONDENSED VERSION OF THE STANDARD Q'S AND A'S HAS BEEN PREPARED AND IS NOW READY FOR DISTRIBUTION. THE NEW VERSION DRAWS HEAVILY ON THE Q'S AND A'S PREPARED IN OCTOBER BUT IS CONSIDERABLY REDUCED IN SIZE AND WILL BE MORE EASILY USED BY DEPARTMENT SPEAKERS. RAY GONZALEZ IS BRINGING ONE COPY WITH HIM. ADDITIONAL COPIES ARE BEING POUCHED.

(B) IN WHAT THE MEDIA IS TERMING THE "JANUARY BLITZ," SECRETARY VANCE THIS WEEK GAVE MAJOR SPEECHES ON THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES IN CHARLESTON (W. VA), LOUISVILLE, AND NEW ORLEANS.

(C) AMBASSADOR BUNKER ACCOMPANIED THE SECRETARY AND IS APPEARING AS A MEMBER OF A PANEL OF EXPERTS WHICH WILL PARTICIPATE IN A TREATY DEBATE JANUARY 13 IN COLOMBIA, S.C., BETWEEN WILLIAM BUCKLEY AND RONALD REAGAN. THE PROGRAM WILL BE AIRED BY PUBLIC TELEVISION LATER IN THE MONTH. AMBASSADOR BUNKER ALSO SPOKE TO A MEETING OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WORLD AFFAIRS FORUM IN WASHINGTON.

(E) DICK WYROUGH BRIEFED A WHITE HOUSE MEDIA SEMINAR AND FIELDERD QUESTIONS IN A PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE BETHESDA DEMOCRATIC WOMENS CLUB WITH MARGARET TRUMAN DANIEL AND PAMELA HARRIMAN WHO SPOKE IN FAVOR OF THE TREATIES. DICK IS ALSO TRAVELLING TO NASSAU JANUARY 14 TO PARTICIPATE IN A PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE CENTER OCEANS LAW AND POLICY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA. HE RETURNS JANUARY 15.

(F) THE COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE PANAMA CANAL HAS ORGANIZED A CROSS COUNTRY, SEVEN CITY TOUR LED BY SENATOR PAUL LAXALT AND REP. PHILIP CRANE COMMENCING JANUARY 16. THE COMMITTEE DESCRIBES THE GROUP AS A "TRUTH SQUAD." THE ITINERARY INCLUDES NASHVILLE, ATLANTA, MIAMI, CINCINNATI, ST. LOUIS, DENVER AND PORTLAND, OREGON.

(G) NATIONAL NEWS AND EDITORIAL COVERAGE OF SENATOR BAKER'S PANAMA VISIT WAS EXTENSIVE THROUGHOUT THE WEEK. ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE NEWS COVERAGE WAS SOMEWHAT AMBIGUOUS

AS TO BAKER'S POSITION ON THE TREATIES, THERE WAS A

GENERAL FEELING IN THE ARTICLES THAT HIS VISIT WAS A PLUS FOR THE FOR THE PRO-TREATY ELEMENT. RADIO/TV COVERAGE OF THE BAKER TRIP AND THE SENATORIAL VISITS IN GENERAL HAS BEEN HEAVY.

5. BYRD STATEMENT. INITIAL MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY SEN. ROBERT BYRD THAT HE WOULD SUPPORT THE TREATIES AND ACTIVELY WORK TO OBTAIN THE SENATE'S ADVICE AND CONSENT HAS BEEN FAIRLY EXTENSIVE.

6. WHITMAN REPORT. REP. RALPH METCALFE, CHAIRMAN OF THE PANAMA CANAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE, HAS ASKED FOR DEPARTMENT COMMENTS ON A REPORT BY M. W. WHITMAN, FORMERLY THE SECRETARY OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE PANAMA CANAL COMPANY AND NOW A COMMITTEE CONSULTANT. THE REPORT MAINTAINS THAT UNDER THE TREATIES THE CANAL WOULD HAVE OPERATING LOSSES OF APPROXIMATELY DOLS 80 MILLION PLUS CAPITAL COSTS OF AN ADDITIONAL DOLS 20 MILLION.

7. HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT. THE UNCLASSIFIED REPORT ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN PANAMA TO BE SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS AS PART OF THE REQUESTS FOR THE FY 1979 AID AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IS NOW IN THE FINAL STAGES OF CLEARANCE. DESK WILL POUCH EMBASSY A COPY AS SOON AS IT LEAVES THE BUREAU ON ITS WAY TO D/HA.

8. AID. THE LA BUREAU'S DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MET ON 1/6/78 TO REVIEW THE INTERIM REPORT FOR THE DOLS 10 MILLION FY 1978 GROWTH AND SERVICES CENTER PROJECT. INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARATION OF THE PROJECT PAPER WILL BE TRANSMITTED ASAP. USAID/P REPRESENTATIVES WHO ATTENDED THE REVIEW SESSION WILL BE BRINGING ADDITIONAL DETAILS AND INFORMATION WITH THEM UPON RETURN TO PANAMA. CHRISTOPHER

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